

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM USLO PEKING
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1730

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAGR CH
SUBJ: CROP CONDITIONS IN HONAN, SHANGHAI, KIANGSI AND SZECHUAN

1. WHEAT HARVESTING IN HONAN, KIANGSU AND SHANGHAI WAS INTERRUPTED OR DELAYED BY FAIRLY HEAVY RAINS ON MAY 30 - JUNE 1. USLO OFFICER TRAVELING AROUND LOYANG MAY 31 NOTICED THAT A SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE CROP (AS MUCH AS 5 PERCENT IN SOME FIELDS) LODGED AND NEARLY ALL WAS READY FOR HARVESTING. LESS THAN 25 PERCENT HAD ALREADY BEEN HARVESTED. ABSENCE OF ANY MECHANIZATION OF HARVESTING OR THRESHING VIRTUALLY ASSURES SOME LOSSES IN WHAT OTHERWISE IS AN EXCELLENT-LOOKING CROP.

2. RAIN AROUND SHANGHAI WAS DELAYING HARVEST ON JUNE 1. OFFICIALS AT THE MALU COMMUNE STATED THAT RICE TRANSPLANTING HAD TO BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 8 TO AVOID REDUCTION OF YIELDS. TRAVELING BACK THROUGH SHANGHAI ON JUNE 7 USLO OFFICER OBSERVED THAT WHEAT REMAINED UNCUT OR POST-HARVEST LAND UNTILLED ON ABOUT 5 PERCENT OF ACREAGE. ABOUT 5 PERCENT OF UNCUT WHEAT WAS LODGED.

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3. RICE IN NORTHERN KIANGSI BETWEEN NANCHANG AND KIUKIANG LOOKED GOOD. RICE IN OVER 90 PERCENT OF THE FIELDS WAS WELL ON THE WAY TO MATURITY WHILE SOME TILLING AND TRANSPLANTING WAS STILL BEING DONE ON A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THE LAND. A TEAN COUNTY OFFICIAL STATED THAT COUNTY-WIDE GRAIN YIELD THIS YEAR IS PLANNED TO INCREASE TO 6 TONS PER HECTARE FROM 5.925 TONS PER

HECTARE LAST YEAR. HE MENTIONED THAT WEATHER HAD BEEN EXCELLENT DURING THE RICE SOWING PERIOD BUT HAD BEEN COLD AND OVERCAST DURING TRANSPLANTING.

4. ANOTHER USLO OFFICER TRAVELING IN CHENGTU AREA AT MAY 27 FOUND WINTER WHEAT HARVEST COMPLETED, AND TRANSPLANTING OF RICE WELL UNDERWAY. AROUND CHUNGKING, CORN WAS WAIST-HIGH MAY 29. IN WUHAN JUNE 1 WHEAT HARVEST HAD BEGUN, AND WHEAT FIELDS IN HUPEI WERE RIPE. CLOSER TO PEKING, HOWEVER, FIELDS WERE STILL GREEN AND TWO OR THREE WEEKS FROM HARVEST. IN PEKING AREA, JUNE 8 WHEAT LOOKS GOOD WHEREVER IRRIGATION WATER IS AVAILABLE, AND ONE OR TWO WEEKS FROM HARVEST. TRANSPLANTING OF RICE IS COMPLETE, AND INTERPLANTED CORN IS BEGINNING TO SHOW ABOVE THE VEGETABLES.
WOODCOCK

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NNN

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